

# Title II Formula Grants Program (JJAC)

## *Background*

The federal Title II Formula Grants Program is authorized under Sections 221–223 of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP Act) of 1974, as amended in 2018. The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) has been delegated the authority to administer the Title II Formula Grants Program at the federal level. In Maryland, the Governor’s Office of Crime Prevention, Youth and Victim Services administers the funding and is supported by the Juvenile Grant Planning and Review Council (or “Juvenile Council”), Maryland’s State Advisory Group.

## *Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP)*

The goals of the JJDP are to help state and local governments prevent and control juvenile delinquency, to improve the juvenile justice system and to protect juveniles in the juvenile justice system from inappropriate placements and from physical and psychological harm.

Each participating state must develop and implement a strategy for achieving and maintaining compliance with the four core protections of the JJDP as part of its 3-Year Title II Formula Grants State Plan. Failure to achieve or maintain compliance results in financial penalties to the state.

## *Four Core Protections of the JJDP:*

1. *Deinstitutionalization of Status Offenders (DSO)*: Juveniles who have committed crimes that would not be crimes if committed by an adult may not be held securely in any adult facility for any reason or length of time.
2. *Removal of Juveniles from Adult Jails & Lockups (Jail Removal)*: No juvenile shall be detained or confined in any jail or lockup for adults. The exception is accused or adjudicated delinquent offenders may be held securely in an adult jail or lockup for up to six hours prior to court, for up to six hours after court, and for up to six hours for processing, identification, interviewing, and releasing to parents/guardians or transfer to a juvenile facility.
3. *Separation of juveniles from adults in institutions (Separation)*: Juvenile offenders will not be detained or confined in any institution in which they have sight or sound contact with adult inmates.
4. *Reduction of Racial and Ethnic Disparities (RED)*: This core protection seeks to address the disproportionate numbers of minority youth who come into contact the justice system at any point.

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## *Priority Areas for Funding*

Funds support reform in Maryland's juvenile justice system and focus on initiatives and strategies that support the hallmarks of the Developmental Approach to Juvenile Justice Reform, which are:

- Accountability Without Criminalization;
- Alternatives to Justice System Involvement;
- Individualized Response Based on Assessment of Needs and Risks;
- Confinement Only When Necessary for Public Safety;
- A Genuine Commitment to Fairness;
- Sensitivity to Disparate Treatment, and;
- Family Engagement.

The intent of the funding is to support the establishment, enhancement, and/or improvement of:

- Aftercare/Reentry: Programs and services which work with juveniles and their families during and after secure confinement in order to strengthen families and reduce the risk of recidivism.
- Juvenile Justice System Improvement: Trauma-informed programs or services designed to improve all aspects of the juvenile justice system from the initial point of contact with law enforcement through reentry utilizing an equity lens and trauma-informed approaches.
- Delinquency Prevention: Programs that incorporate trauma-informed approaches, and research such as the Adverse Childhood Experiences study, to develop early intervention and prevention services for children and families.
- Community-based Programs and Services: Programs and services that are provided in the juvenile's community versus formal processing and confinement in the juvenile justice system.

## *Juvenile Council (Maryland's State Advisory Group (SAG))*

State Advisory Groups (SAG's) are called on to serve as the voice of juvenile justice in their States and Territories. The Governor appoints Maryland's Juvenile Council (SAG) members. Strong and knowledgeable SAG's can be a catalyst for change and a great benefit to a State's youth. Juvenile Council members:

- Participate in the development of the three year plan;
- Advise the Governor and Legislature annually on compliance with the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act;
- Obtain input from juveniles in the system through different outreach methods (i.e. focus groups, surveys, tours, etc.); and,